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August 3, 1900

1968

TURKEY.

Plague in Beirut, Syria.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 24, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the vice-consul at Beirut, Syria, notified this Department, under date of the 20th instant, of the presence of plague in that city.

Respectfully,

DAVID J. HILL,
Acting Secretary.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

VENEZUELA.

New remedy for leprosy at Maracaibo.

MARACAIBO, June 25, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Department that it is believed that in the use of the extract of la cortega de Mangle roja we have found a new remedy for the cure of leprosy. It is now used since two months in our leper asylum at Maracaibo. I have written to the physician of the island to ascertain the result and shall report to you as soon as I have the answer.

The extract is from the bark of the mangle tree (mangrove shells) which grows abundantly along the coast of the Lake of Maracaibo, and is used to cure the hides in tanneries. For that purpose it has been much exported.

Respectfully,

ED. PLUMACHER,
United States Consul.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Relation of leprosy to smallpox and vaccination.

MARACAIBO, June 27, 1900.

SIR: I have been informed by reliable persons from the adjoining Republic of Colombia that persons afflicted with leprosy and attacked by smallpox (viruela brava) have been cured from leprosy. It is well-known that one-fifth of the population of the State of Santander, in the Republic of Colombia, have the germ of leprosy in a more or less pronounced degree, and that in the same State smallpox is spreading rapidly. The foregoing statement is based upon observation.

I have examined into the record of our lepers here and find that none have been vaccinated against smallpox in former days before the disease of leprosy was pronounced in the persons.

It is also true that most of those now suffering with the leper disease in Colombia have never been vaccinated against smallpox.

This makes me think that there may be some connection with both diseases and that vaccination against smallpox may also be a preventive for contagion of leprosy.

I believe it would be of value for our medical men if this question could be solved by competent authorities. I hardly think that any leper in China and in the Asiatic possessions has ever been vaccinated as my own personal observation of former years has taught me.

Respectfully,

ED. PLUMACHER,
United States Consul.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.